



## ***SOUTH CENTRAL OREGON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT***

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington DC 20160

REF: 2019 Targeted Airshed Grant Program, EPA-OAR-OAQPS-20-01

To whom it my concern:

The South Central Oregon Economic Development District (SCOEDD) serves as the primary conduit for regional economic development resources for Klamath County. It provides the professional staff to support economic development planning on a regional basis and the individual economic development basis and also manages and administers regional grant and loan programs.

When Klamath Falls was designated as a nonattainment area for PM 10 and later PM 2.5 by the EPA, it carried several economic implications. Core industries of the Klamath Basin were affected and the status limits which industries and other businesses can operate in the county without extensively scrubbing their emissions. If Klamath were to fall into serious nonattainment, the economic impacts could be devastating specifically to Wood Products Manufacturing which makes up 65% of all manufacturing in the region.

There is an ingrained culture in the Klamath Basin to heat homes with woodstoves and educating the community about the benefits of switching to non-wood burning heat sources has been critical. SCOEDD has partnered with Klamath County Public Health (KCPH) and the Department of Environmental Quality to deliver public health education and woodstove change out programs. In the past 10 years, SCOEDD has overseen nearly 500 woodstove change outs resulting in nearly 5.5 tons of reduced emissions. As a result, the improvement in the air quality has been marked.

SCOEDD envisions continuing this work and hopes to see the culture continue to shift from wood burning heat sources to less polluting, non-wood burning heat sources. If granted this funding, we could continue reducing the amount of high emission wood stoves in the area and provide weatherization incentives to improve home heating efficiency. Thank you for considering this application as we strive towards the goal of improved community health and creating favorable conditions for new industry.

Respectfully,

Betty Riley  
Executive Director